

Rex Stratton—Position #1



My wife, Barbara, and I moved to Vashon eight years ago after visiting long-time friends on the island. Over time, I have watched Vashon change in many significant ways.

I seek to continue to serve our community in as many ways possible. For over 30 years I have served as a Chancellor to Seabeck Christian Conference, I have been on the vestry at St. Mark's Cathedral, a board member and president of the Washington State Patent Law Association; on the board and president of The Northwest School for eight years; and member of other corporate and nonprofit boards, including the Vashon Island Rotary Club and Vashon College.

My goal is to serve on the Vashon Island Fire and Rescue board of commissioners and bring to the board my experience in varied organizations as a way to continuing my service to our Island community.

As a commissioner, I would diligently work to support the continued improvement of services to our island community, keeping in mind the Department's fiscal responsibility to provide the best emergency services within the financial resources available.

SharonLee Nicholson — Position #4

It's been my privilege the past three years to serve you as Fire Commissioner—Position 4. I have been a Vashon Island resident since 1978 and understand the unique needs of our community. I will continue to use my professional experience as a public leader and facilitator to meet our changing emergency service needs.

The median age of our Island is higher than the US average increasing demand on emergency medical services. Our young families look to VIF&R for prevention, education and fire protection services. With strong leadership and efficient use of our resources VIF&R will continue to evolve—professionally meeting those needs.



I am committed to maintaining a balanced budget and providing the finest emergency services available while honoring traditions.

My goals for this term are to fulfill the expectations of the 2000 Strategic Plan, decrease response times to all emergencies, and continue to serve you, the Voter. I ask for your continued support.

Education: Masters in Public Administration
— U of W.

Scott Rice — Position #5



My family and I have enjoyed life on Vashon for 9 years now. We love the lifestyle and plan to stay. I have faithfully served our community through

your Fire Board for the past year and directed the department through two budget sessions, acquisition of a new fire truck, and created the vision for relocating a new fire station to better serve our Southend residents.

I served as President for Vashon Island Emergency Management Area, the only official organization recognized by King County in the event of a disaster for providing vital aid and supplies.

I am a five-year Rotarian, recipient of an appreciation award for volunteer work with Habitat for Humanity and a Baseball Coach for Vashon Youth. I care about providing my family as well as yours the very best emergency services possible and I hope you do to.

I ask for your support to continue this important work.

VOTE TO ELECT: **SHARONLEE NICHOLSON** **SCOTT RICE** **REX STRATTON**

EXHIBIT #1

*Support Your Local
Firefighters and EMTs*

Vote to Elect:

☒ SHARON LEE
NICHOLSON

☒ SCOTT RICE

☒ REX STRATTON



*Proudly endorsed by the
Local Firefighter's Union*



Paid for by:

IAFF Local #4189
Vashon Island Firefighters & Paramedics
P.O. Box 2694
Vashon, WA 98070



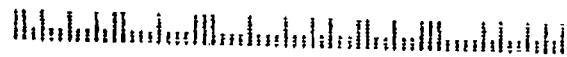
The Lambert Family
6605 SW 240th St
Vashon, WA 98070

RECEIVED

NOV 1 - 2005

Public Disclosure Commission

9807047234-05 R006



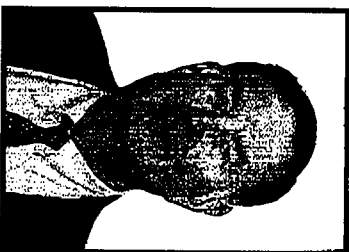
S. NICHOLSON
S. RICE
R. STRATTON

EXHIBIT #

3 of 4

PREPARED
FOR OUR
FUTURE.
PROUD OF
OUR PAST.
FIRE
COMMISSIONER
CANDIDATES

Rex Stratton—Position #1



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— U of W.

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I ask for your support to continue this important work.

VOTE TO ELECT: ★ SHARONLEE NICHOLSON ★ SCOTT RICE ★ REX STRATTON

EXHIBIT # 1
of 4

VASHON-MAURY ISLAND

BEACHCOMBER

Nov 02 2005

Letters to the editor

VIFR

Sommers will work for input

Gayle Sommers is running for Vashon-Island Fire and Rescue (VIFR) Fire Commissioner Pos. 4. Gayle understands both the spirit and practice of public involvement in the decision-making process. She will work to make sure that VIFR becomes an organization that welcomes community input and remains ready to help in any emergency.

Gayle has lived on Vashon Island and been actively involved in our community since 1990. She was elected to the boards of the Vashon Island School District and the Vashon-Maury Island Community Council, and has served on the boards of a number of local nonprofit and political organizations.

Gayle was elected Chair of the school board, and Vice President of the VMICC. While on the school board, she helped make decisions about property, budgets, and personnel.

Gayle has worked at Vashon Youth & Family Services since 1993, where she currently serves as manager of social services.

Please don't forget to cast your vote for Gayle Sommers on Nov. 8.

David and Patrice Vogel

Stop the attacks, support VIFR

I would like to start by apologizing for another letter regarding fire district politics.

Once again we are back into the election season, and the senseless attacks on the fire district and its personnel have increased to levels of extreme embarrassment.

These attacks continue to be initiated by the same small group of loud individuals. A majority of them are rogue past members of the fire district, and feel they are owed something.

I am proud to admit that I do have a connection to the community of Vashon as well as the fire district. I was raised on Vashon and currently hold a staff position at VIFR.

I believe the questioning process and debate is healthy. This type of interaction helps keep an organization on track and moving in the right direction for the betterment of the entire community.

However, when that debate and questioning becomes blatant harassment and there are attacks by the same people day in and day out, it becomes destructive. This destructive behavior is negatively affecting the community's perception that we can execute the District's mission statement effectively.

We have a strong group of qualified and dedicated volunteer and career emergency providers working within the district. These individuals are outstanding contributors and deserve to be supported, not ridiculed, by this small group of naysayers.

The mission of this District is to protect the life, property and environment of the community that we serve, and we are doing that now. Our District is performing at new heights never been seen before on Vashon. Examples include improved response times, increased training opportunities, a successful volunteer duty program, and the inception of valuable community programs such as CERT, NERO and the Vashon Disaster Preparedness Coalition.

Vote for SharonLee Nicholson, Scott Rice and Rex Stratton on Nov. 8.

Jim Whitney

EXHIBIT 2

1 of 1

Vote for a board all can trust

Would you commit \$10,000 non-refundable earnest money on a property you didn't know was suitable to be built on? That is what our "fiscally responsible" incumbent fire commissioners

Islanders for Representative Fire Leadership

| [Home](#) | [Endorsements](#) | [News](#) | [Announcements](#) |

The latest story

Got your flyer from "Printing Plus" and Lea Gaskill, the Fire Chief's daughter? You've already paid for thousands of dollars of business from this outfit...

[Read More](#)

The Bufoonery Continues...

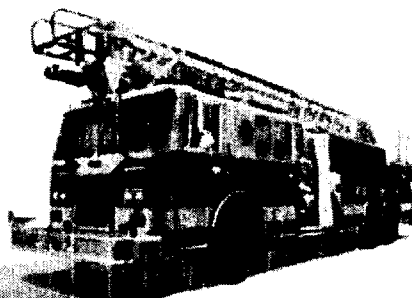
Remember the house fire that our firemen didn't bother to bring water to? Now they can't respond to a fire 200 yards away in a timely manner...

[Read More](#)

Outgoing Commissioners Rush Through Pay Raises

The outgoing Board of Commissioners rushed through approval of new contracts for the employees of the fire department, fearing fiscal responsibility may be around the corner...

[Read More](#)



Wilson Submits Yet Another Fraudulent Application for Federal Grant

Jim Wilson has submitted yet another application for Federal Tax Money to pay for even more firemen, GUARANTEEING the Feds that he will raise taxes to pay for their future pay and benefits!

Contact your Commissioners at the following:

David Jennings
david.r.jennings@usdoj.gov
-or- djennings@vifr.org
463-6520
19232 Ridge Road S.W.
Vashon 98070

SharonLee Nicholson
sharonwern@comcast.net
-or- snicholson@vifr.org
463-9389
13235 S.W. Tahlequah Road
Vashon 98070

Susan Carleton
snazparsons@aol.com
-or- scarleton@vifr.org
463-6637
P.O. Box 13551
25525 77th Ave S.W.
Burton 98013

Jan Nielsen
nielsen11@mindspring.com
-or- jnielsen@vifr.org

Mission

To educate and inform the citizens of Vashon and Maury Islands regarding the actions and function of Vashon Island Fire & Rescue and its Board.

Fire Budget

The Budget for Vashon Island Fire and Rescue now exceeds over three million dollars a year, and the Commissioners want even more!!

IRFL Hotline

Call 463-IRFL(4735) to let us know about anything you'd like to share concerning our fire department. Complaints, observations, first-hand experience and even anecdotal information is welcome. If you have questions, we can get you an accurate and honest answer, guaranteed graft-free.

EXHIBIT# 3

/ of /

Rick Frye

22829 107th Ave S.W.
Vashon Island, WA 98070-6541
(206) 463-9851
rickfrye@wolfenet.com
23 September 2005

RECEIVED

SEP 26 2005

Public Disclosure Commission

Public Disclosure Commission

711 Capitol Way, Room 206
P.O. Box 40908
Olympia, WA 98504-0908

Attn: Mr. Tony Perkins

Dear Mr. Perkins:

As per our telephone conversation earlier today, I'm sending to you a copy of the very recent mailing of the "Fireline News", an irregularly published propaganda effort of Vashon Island's increasingly corrupt fire board/administration.

I'm enclosing the 11" x 14", two-color mailing from the Vashon Maury Fire Dept. prominently showcasing commissioner and candidate, Sharon Lee Nicholson, who just so happens to be running for her (heretofore) appointed seat in a primary which was conducted on Tuesday the 20th of September. While there is no date shown on the mailing, please note that it indicates the dates of upcoming meetings beginning with their meeting on the 20th of September - same day as the election for which only Ms. Nicholson's seat is contested in the primary.

EXHIBIT #4

1 of 3

SEP 26 2005

Public Disclosure Commission

Please note also that these mailings (sent to all mailing addresses on Vashon) have NEVER previously highlighted individual commissioners. I find it more than a little disturbing that this woman who indicates that she has been appointed as a fire commissioner for nearly three years suddenly finds it convenient to introduce herself and hawk her "credentials" to the community so shortly before her bid for election. (I note that she was one of four candidates all seeking a single VIFR board position four years ago and was one of two candidates who was defeated in the primary.) She was appointed the following year over others who, unlike herself, had been attending meetings regularly - including the candidate who defeated her in the primary.

Another important observation concerns the fact that in spite of the election being very much on the minds of many islanders - especially the increasingly unpopular VIFR board and administration - since a majority of the board (three members of the five member board) have been appointed by what can most accurately be described as "forces very friendly to the administration" and all three of these seats are up for election in November. The observation is that they have been VERY CAREFUL to avoid ANY mention of this upcoming election (or the primary) - no doubt so as to attempt to pretend that what they are doing is something other than electioneering.

I would contend that most thinking people would expect that if this group was at all civic minded, it would have at least reminded its audience that there is an election within a day or so and encourage them to cast a vote - not for any specific candidate, but simply to exercise their franchise in this particularly sensitive election which will determine the majority of the board.

SEP 26 2005

Public Disclosure Commission

Since including attorneys on the board (one of whom is a federal prosecutor and who arrogantly considers himself to be beyond the reach of the law, they have (usually) been careful to cross their "t's" and dot their "i's" as they continue to claim that they are operating within the letter of the law while routinely circumventing its spirit whenever they find that it suits their purposes. On occasion, they are caught in open and willful violation of the letter of the law seeming to believe that no one would notice. This took place when they appointed a new commissioner by secret ballot - a commissioner who was later arrested for DUI and who was shown to have lied to police when her husband beat up their teenager. Surprisingly, she is not running to be elected to her seat.

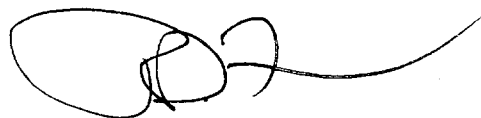
I am very interested in making an issue of this abuse and in filing a formal complaint. I do have copies of most of the publicly funded propaganda pieces VIFR has issued since the ouster of our long time fire chief in 2000. The "Winter 2005" issue is two pieces of glossy, 14-1/2" x 23", full color stapled in the center and folded into an eight page "booklet."

I have only one copy of most of these, but would be happy to photocopy what I have. I would suggest that your office first request copies of previous "issues" from VIFR.

Please let me know what I should do from here.

Thank You.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Rick Frye", with a large, stylized initial "R" and a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Rick Frye

Fireline News



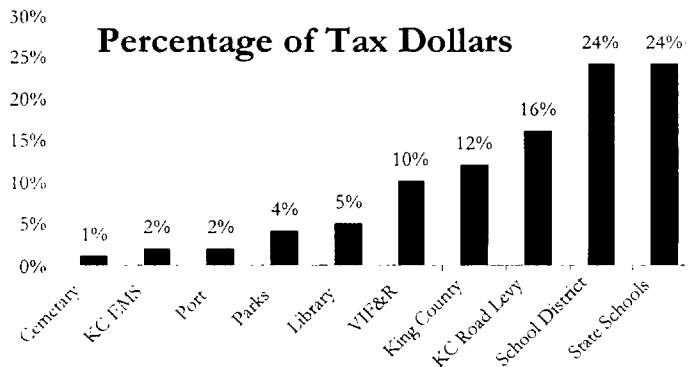
Disclosure Commission

No Tax Increase Since '90

By: Jim Wilson, Fire Chief

While participating in the Community Council's new subcommittee, Finance Manager Matt Sullivan pointed out the taxes you pay to support VIF&R have not been significantly increased in 15 years. VIF&R has not gone to a vote of the people to raise taxes since 1990.

Emerging from the research is validation that VIF&R has and will continue to be customer service oriented while being fiscally responsible. From 2000 through 2004 the District has experienced a nearly 40% increase in emergency call-for-service volume. While increasing the number of emergency responses we have also reduced the average response time from the main fire station from 9.95 to 5.05 minutes (in their primary response zone). While response times have also declined to Burton, Tahlequah and Maury Island, they have not been quite so dramatic. In keeping with the goals of our 2000 Customer Centered Strategic Plan, the Board and staff are currently working toward improving service to those neighborhoods also.



During that same time period, VIF&R has replaced old and unsafe apparatus and equipment, transitioned the Training and Safety Division to comply with national fire certification standards as well as L&I and OSHA compliance, and increased the number of volunteer members. Career firefighters and paramedic staffing has increased to now ensure two firefighter/EMTs and two paramedic/firefighters are on duty 24/7/365.

The truly significant element of system change and customer service enhancement is your taxes paid to support VIF&R has not been significantly increased. VIF&R has not gone to a vote of the people to raise taxes in 15 years. Other public agencies on Vashon, since 1990, have successfully asked the voters to raise taxes 16 times. While Fire District spending has increased over the years, matching revenue increases have been acquired from non-Vashon tax-based sources as well as grant funding. For the past five years our community has received enhanced life-saving, property-preserving customer service while not contributing increased property tax funding. When compared to many other public agencies — that's fiscal responsibility.

A Message from SharonLee Nicholson— VIF&R Board Chair



I joined VIF&R in January 2003, appointed to one of two board positions created by the voters the previous year. A long-time Islander, I served six years as a Vashon Cemetery District Commissioner and as community volunteer from Vashon to Teheran, Iran. I attended the UW, focusing on local governance.

After earning my Masters degree in Public Administration, I accepted a position with the City of Seattle where I now focus on HR project management and compensation plan design and administration. My education continues: I have become certified as senior human resources professional by both the *Society for Human Resource Management* and the *World at Work* (formerly American Compensation Association).

I approach my job on the Board of Commissioners systematically. Successful organizations depend on a strong Human Resource system and the 2003 Board saw a need to strengthen the HR system, forming the Personnel Committee. I currently chair the committee that meets to address and make recommendations to the full Board on various human resource issues. A major accomplishment of the Personnel Committee was development of an exempt employee compensation plan that was subsequently implemented by the Board.

My personal goal is consistent with that of my colleagues on the Board: implement the priorities and goals identified by the community in the 2000 Strategic Plan. The plan outlines what the public wanted: quicker emergency response times, responsible financial management, and a customer-based approach to delivering fire protection and emergency response.

We are achieving the results the public asked for. Our emergency response times have dropped by nearly 5 minutes per call despite call volume increases of about 40% since 2000. The Board has supported the development of community-wide disaster planning and more than 50 volunteers now are involved with Emergency Operations Center activities and neighborhood emergency preparedness. We have formalized and will continue to improve our human resources systems.

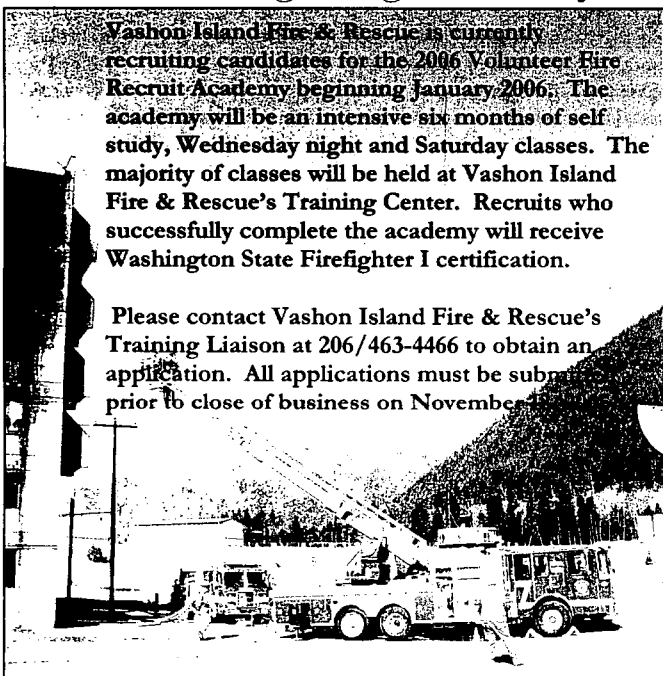
We are achieving the public's goals in the 2000 Customer Centered Strategic Plan within budget and without an increase in taxes. I am proud to be a member of the VIF&R team. In the past the team has met and overcome obstacles to achieve community goals. We are prepared to meet the challenges of the future.

EXHIBIT # 5
1 of 2

Calling All Volunteers for 2006 Fire Fighting Academy

Vashon Island Fire & Rescue is currently recruiting candidates for the 2006 Volunteer Fire Recruit Academy beginning January 2006. The academy will be an intensive six months of self study, Wednesday night and Saturday classes. The majority of classes will be held at Vashon Island Fire & Rescue's Training Center. Recruits who successfully complete the academy will receive Washington State Firefighter I certification.

Please contact Vashon Island Fire & Rescue's Training Liaison at 206/463-4466 to obtain an application. All applications must be submitted prior to close of business on November 15, 2005.



Commissioner Meeting Calendar

You're Invited!

Please join us for upcoming Fire Board of Commissioner Meetings. Future dates are:

September 20, 2005

October 4, 2005

October 18, 2005

November 1, 2005

November 15, 2005

Also, watch for other up & coming neighborhood meetings, as well as budget hearings!

We Want to Hear From You!

Do you have an opinion about the proposed property site for the Burton Fire House?

Give us a call. Please contact Fire Chief Jim Wilson at 463-2405 or contact one of your Fire Commissioners for a one-on-one discussion.

Sixty-Five Years of Volunteer Service — By: Assistant Chief, Mike Kirk

Vashon Island Fire & Rescue continues to need new volunteer firefighters as we have for 65 years. In contrast, however, with the basic firefighting service that our first volunteers provided in the 1940's, today's volunteer may specialize as a Firefighter, Firefighter/EMT, Emergency Medical Technician, Support or Associate member.

Today's active volunteers include: 28 Firefighters or Firefighter/EMTs; 29 EMT's; and 10 High School Explorers. This 67-member team with our Career, Associate and Support members combines for a total of 100 emergency responders, at your service.

In addition, you are served by 150 of your neighbors who are trained to provide emergency service through CERT, NERO, Red Cross and the Disaster Preparedness organizations.

Since 1940, 961 citizens have joined the fire district. In 1940, the famous Island artist, Norman Edson, served for one year as a firefighter. Dockton resident, Milt Kranjcevic, served for 50 years (1952-2002). However, the average length of service for all volunteers (1940-2005) is 5.5 years.

We welcome your inquiries or application to volunteer in any capacity. Contact our training center at 463-4466 for more information.

Vashon Island Fire and Rescue
P.O. Box 1150
Vashon, WA 98070

Bulk Rate
U.S. Postage
Paid Permit
No. 57
Vashon, WA
98070

Current Resident or Box Holder

EXHIBIT # 5
2 of 2

Sept. 23, 2005

RECEIVED

SEP 26 2005

Public Disclosure Commission

Jennifer,

Enclosed is the publication from our Fire District I called you about. It arrived in everyone's mail receptacle around the time of the primary election in which Sharon Lee Nicholson is engaged. This publication is a sporadic issue from our Fire District. And this "Fireline News," to the best of my memory, has never before featured any Fire Commissioner - let alone one currently running for election.

My concern is the content of the "Message from Sharon Lee Nicholson." She discusses her education, her employment, her "approach" to her "job on the Board of Commissioners," her "personal goal."

This all just appears to me to be a "vote for me" pamphlet paid for by public funds.

EXHIBIT 6

1 of 6

(2)

Please review this document and let me know what you think. It appears this individual may be in the November election (she and the third place candidate in the primary are practically tied). I, as a tax payer here on Vashon Island, strongly object to this tax supported agency electioneering on behalf of any candidate.

I would appreciate it if you would get back to me about this issue. My contact information is below,

Thank you.

Alice Larson
206-463-9600
las@wolfenet.com
P.O. Box 801
Vashon Island, WA 98070

RECEIVED
SEP 26 2005
Public Disclosure Commission

EXHIBIT 6
2 of 6

RECEIVED

SEP 27 2005

9/22/05 Public Disclosure Commission

To: Public Disclosure Commission

I AM APPALLED BY THE ENCLOSED OBVIOUS
ENDORSEMENT OF A CANDIDATE FOR PUBLIC ELECTION
BY THE LOCAL FIRE DEPT. IF NOT ILLEGAL, IT
IS CERTAINLY UNETHICAL & DEFINITELY IN BAD
TASTE.

Please Review —

Yours,
Dick
Dick FRANKLIN

P.O. Box 487
VASHON, WA 98070
206-463-2435

EXHIBIT 6
3 of 6

OCT - 3 2005

Public Disclosure Commission

FREDERIC P. & BARBARA F. STODDARD

5932 SW 248th Street
Vashon, WA 98070
Phone 206 463 9717
Fax 206 463 0582

September 29, 2005

Public Disclosure Committee
711 Capitol Way, Room 206
P. O. Box 40908
Olympia, WA 98504

Attention: Mr. Tony Perkins

Dear Mr. Perkins,

We would like to register a formal complaint against Sharonlee Nicholson and Vashon Island Fire and Rescue. Ms. Nicholson is running as an incumbent for position number 4 for a seat on the Vashon Island Fire and Rescue Fire Commissioner Board. She is in a hotly contested race for this position and at this time is behind her opponent almost 2 to 1.

One day after the primary election we received the enclosed brochure. It is our belief, that the brochure was designed to reach the public before the primary election, however, through some quirk of fate it was delayed. Public money was used to produce and mail this brochure which has no other Board Commissioners name or statements. This is a violation of the campaign laws of our state.

We would appreciate anything you could do to remedy this blatant misuse of public money. Thank you in advance for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,



Frederic P. Stoddard
Barbara F. Stoddard
Enclosure

R. W. TURNER
26734 94th Av.
Vashon, WA 98070
(206) 463-5491

28 Sep 2005

Public Disclosure Commission
711 Capitol Way, Room 206
P.O. Box 40908
Olympia, WA 98504-0908

RECEIVED

SEP 29 2005

Public Disclosure Commission

Attn: Mr. Tony Perkins

Dear Mr. Perkins:

I request your organization investigate Vashon Fire District Commissioner candidate SharonLee Nicholson for possible disclosure violations. Attached please find a copy of the "FireLine News" a Vashon Island Fire & Rescue publication dated September 2005. This publication was received by Vashon voters just before or the day of the primary election.

This unscheduled publication features an article highlighting Ms. Nicholson. The comments made are nothing less than what you would expect to see in a candidates brochure. As I understand it, candidates are limited to the amount of money that can be spent to promote themselves. Certainly this limit has been exceeded when you consider the cost involved in the production and mailing this document. Moreover, the use of public funds for self-promotion, no matter how it is framed must be illegal. As a candidate for D13 Fire Commissioner, Position 1, I believe Ms. Nicholson and the district's administration have effectively degraded the spirit and intent of the Public Disclosure Commission's mission.



R. W. TURNER

EXHIBIT 6
5 of 6

RECEIVED

OCT 10 2005

Public Disclosure Commission

Islanders for Representative Fire Leadership
P.O. Box 1531
Vashon, WA 98070
www.irfl.org

To Whom It May Concern,

As President of the above organization, it has been my responsibility to monitor and report on the was Vashon Island Fire & Rescue, governed by a Board of Fire Commissioners on Vashon and Maury Islands.

The current chair of that Board is Sharon Lee Nicholson, an appointee with a tainted past and an established record of disdain for election law. Having lost an election to this Board some four years ago, Nicholson was appointed by like-minded cohorts when the Board was expanded. Two years ago, she conspired with her friend and Editor of the local paper, Allison Arthur, to plant a false story alleging that a PDC complaint had been made against me and Craig Harmeling, who were running for election to the Board at that time. No such complaint existed, which was confirmed with your office at that time; Arthur refused to correct the story. Nicholson, as proxy for Fire Chief Jim Wilson, opposed our election for fear of any opposition to their empire-building. As an independent taxing district, VIF&R has virtually no oversight or restraint.

One year ago, when a vacancy had been created on the Board due to a resignation, Nicholson placed an improper and totally inappropriate personal phone call to Harmeling, demanding that he remove his name from contention for the vacancy.

Most recently Nicholson has conspired with VIF&R to spend taxpayer monies to finance and mail a thinly disguised election pamphlet to promote her own candidacy. It is my understanding that your office has received other complaints concerning her latest deception and that your office has been supplied with a copy.

Now I have received, as President of IRFL, the enclosed threat from the attorney representing the Board, chaired by Nicholson. This letter is a blatant attempt to stifle any opposition or free speech that may embarrass VIF&R or hinder Nicholson's election.

I would, therefore, like to register an official complaint concerning Nicholson's behavior, illegal conduct and abuse of public funds. Please let me know as soon as possible if any other documentation may be required to support my contentions. Feel free to contact me at the numbers listed below if you have any questions.



Joel M. Wade
206/463-2273 Home
206/919-6916 Cell
joelwade@centurytel.net

EXHIBIT 6

6 of 6

RECEIVED

OCT 18 2005

FREDERIC P. & BARBARA F. STODDARD

Public Disclosure Commission

5932 SW 248th Street
Vashon, WA 98070
Phone 206 463 9717
Fax 206 463 0582

October 14, 2005

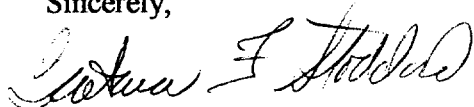
Mr. Phil Stutzman
Public Disclosure Committee
711 Capitol Way, Room 206
P. O. Box 40908
Olympia, WA 98504

Dear Mr. Stutzman,

Enclosed please find a copy of the newest flyer received on Friday October 14, 2005. These questions that are answered in this newest flyer is a direct result of candidates views as expressed in the Beachcomber Press (our local weekly newspaper) during a series of articles on all of our local candidates.

We appreciate your investigation into this matter, and look forward to hearing from you in the near future.

Sincerely,



Frederic P. & Barbara F. Stoddard

Enclosure.

Fireline News



Fire FAQs — Separating Fact From Fiction

As we move closer to the November General Election, it is in every voter's best interest to have accurate information on which to formulate an intelligent and informed choice when casting your ballot. Your fire district does not and cannot endorse any candidate for office. It is, however, District staff's responsibility to ensure accurate information is distributed to every community member in response to inquiries. We invite all candidates and voters to contact any staff member at the office to inquire about current issues. Office hours are 8 AM to 5 PM Monday through Friday. Please telephone; 463-2405, visit; 10020 SW Bank Road, or e-mail; admin@vifr.org with questions and someone will respond immediately. Vashon is home to a lightning-quick rumor mill that may not always be accurate. When you hear someone preface an issue with "I've been told" or "I hear" please check the source and verify the facts for yourself. Our community deserves elected officials based on merit and qualifications, not an inaccurate rumor mill. This newsletter outlines those inquiries along with factual responses. Following are responses based on some previous issues:

VIF&R encourages new volunteers.

Even though the District does employ two firefighters and two paramedics for duty each day, we are now and will be far into the distant future, volunteer-dependant. VIF&R actively recruits new volunteer members. Annually, VIF&R sponsors on-Island Fire Recruit and EMT training academies open to all community members who meet the minimum physical and spare time requirements. While demanding, this is training that benefits both our community and your family. The next Fire Recruit Academy begins in January. **Please join our family to help yours. Call Susan Wolf at 463-4466 for information and an application.**

Why does VIF&R seek grant funding?

The simple answer is; it's the responsible thing to do. Also, at last December's Strategic Planning Meeting the Board charged staff with seeking any and all appropriate grants. ***If the District has a need and there is a grant available to fill that need, customer service can be improved at little or no cost to taxpayers.*** Staff is charged with researching and writing grant requests. Once awarded, it is up to the Board of Commissioners to evaluate the merits of the award and make the final decision on acceptance.

Is it true VIF&R employs three assistant chiefs?

VIF&R employs only one career assistant chief and maintains one volunteer assistant chief, Mike Kirk. In addition the District employs a career training/safety officer. ***All chief officers are certified and qualified in all-risk emergency response.***

With \$2.5 million in the bank, why seek grants?

The District is the benefactor of responsible fiscal management that has resulted in a healthy reserve fund. Being fiscally responsible should not preclude application for grant funding. Also, even though the savings are in the bank, much of it cannot be dedicated to other projects or purchases. Reserves are dedicated to systematic apparatus, equipment and capital replacement without future bonding or borrowing. In addition, the State Auditor recommends districts retain a reserve balance equal to between three and six months of operational expenses. Hurricane Katrina nicely illustrated that need for all who were in doubt. A fire department must provide for continuity of emergency service despite an unanticipated interruption of revenue. While many districts do not maintain an adequate reserve fund, VIF&R should not be criticized for fiscal responsibility. ***Grant funding provides service while not raising taxes.***


I keep hearing taxpayer dollars are used to force a private ambulance service out of business.

There is no choreographed effort by the District to force anyone out of business. However, it is not a public agency's responsibility to ensure a private company is awarded business or remains in business. VIF&R's mission is to respond to emergency calls-for-service and resolve the customer's issue quickly and efficiently. In the case of EMS calls our member designated as the primary care provider is charged with making treatment and transport decisions in the patient's best interest. In concert with a physician, our responder in the field is entrusted with implementing the very best care possible. The Fire Chief and Board of Commissioners should not and can not make those decisions from the office by policy. It is impossible for a single car ambulance company with only two employees to ensure 24/7/365 service. Based on a dramatic increase of simultaneous two, three, and even four call-for-service situations, VIF&R undertook a system re-design to ensure uninterrupted treatment and transport service. We were very successful! VIF&R has now provided adequate staffing to meet current community needs. Our new volunteer and volunteer resident members are on-line and eager for experience. It is they, paired with an experienced member, who have opted to transport many of our patients believing District apparatus and equipment to be superior to the private service. When a community member calls 9-1-1, the District is responsible to respond and make medical decisions in conjunction with and on behalf of the patient. Please remember, however, there is no requirement to call 9-1-1. If you desire private transport, you are encouraged to call the private service. The District entrusts our trained responders with life and death decisions on a daily basis. The Board and administration would never presume to dictate or unduly influence how a primary patient provider makes transport decisions. VIF&R's responders do not deny or award clients to a private business based on like or dislike. ***Our responders care for only you in your time of need.***

What is "nice-to-have" equipment or apparatus?

The assumption would be reference to non-vital or possibly excessive amounts of equipment. Unfortunately, the District does not have the latitude to purchase unnecessary equipment. ***Every piece of equipment or apparatus owned by the District meets a vital and necessary life-saving or property-preserving need.*** Since we are an island community, VIF&R does not enjoy rapid mutual or automatic aid from neighboring emergency response agencies. VIF&R must plan, train, and equip as an all-risk emergency response organization and be capable of immediate response under all conditions. On two previous occasions the District has requested mutual aid assistance, the first took over 2 ½ hours to arrive, the second nearly three. It is not acceptable to ask our customers to wait that long for service.

Calling All Volunteers for 2006 Fire Fighting Academy



Vashon Island Fire & Rescue is currently recruiting candidates for the 2006 Volunteer Fire Recruit Academy beginning January 2006. The academy will be an intensive six months of self study, Wednesday night and Saturday classes. The majority of classes will be held at Vashon Island Fire & Rescue's Training Center. Recruits who successfully complete the academy will receive Washington State Firefighter I certification.

Please contact Vashon Island Fire & Rescue Training Center at 4466 to apply. Applications must be submitted prior to November 18, 2005.

Why is VIF&R proposing to replace the Burton Fire Station?

The simple answer to a complex issue is the current building has been judged seismically unsound and may not withstand a sizable earthquake. That building houses over \$1.25 million in apparatus and associated equipment that may not be available when disaster strikes. The more complex facet of the issue addresses the level of customer service to that portion of Vashon Island south of Judd Creek Bridge. In emergency response, time equals life and property preservation. Through recent system upgrades, response times to the primary response area of the main Vashon Fire Station have been reduced on average from 9.95 minutes in 2001 to 5.05 minutes in a comparable period of 2005. While response times to Burton and Tahlequah have declined, results have not been as positive and are still too high. The District's new volunteer resident program has been very successful and staffing exists to transfer to a Burton-area station that can accommodate overnight stays. Also, to augment volunteer staffing, grant funding is being sought to bolster times of day when volunteer members are generally not available.

Reducing average response time is achievable.

Why does VIF&R maintain so many vehicles and so much equipment?

In emergency response, time saved means lives and property saved. The District maintains fire engines in each of five stations and aid cars and water tenders (tankers) in three primary stations. Each is strategically located to the best of our current ability. In addition, the District maintains three command vehicles and two staff pickups. Each staff vehicle is equipped with basic emergency medical response equipment and is capable of serving as an incident command post. During wildland fire season, the two pickups are equipped with a slide-in pump/tank unit that converts them into fast attack fire engines. The District also maintains two paramedic vehicles fully stocked with advanced life support (ALS) equipment and field medications. Each medic travels independent of the other in the event of two concurrent ALS calls-for-service. As an additional layer of response five volunteer members carry basic emergency medical equipment including a cardiac defibrillator in their private vehicles. All vehicles are available 24-hours per day for all-risk emergency response. At risk of stating the obvious, Vashon is an Island. Contrary to every other King County agency, we do not enjoy rapid mutual aid from our neighbors. VIF&R must be prepared to split our medics and respond up to four aid cars at once. We must plan and be prepared for multiple simultaneous calls; they have occurred numerous times in the past and will only increase in frequency.

VIF&R is designed to be independent and versatile.

otherwise is irresponsible and not acceptable.

Do my taxes escalate to a higher bracket when the District hires more employees?

There are no "brackets" associated with the District's property tax levy and, unless approved by the voters, the District cannot raise your taxes in excess of the Initiative 747-mandated limits. As illustrated in VIF&R's Financial Forecast, the District receives the same dollar funding from the levy each and every year. With the exception of new construction revenue, VIF&R receives the same operating dollars as approved in 1990.

VIF&R has not requested a voter-approved tax increase in the past 15 years despite experiencing a 40% increase in emergency call-for-service volume since 2000. For a more detailed explanation of a very complex system, please review the Financial Forecast on the District website; www.vifr.org or call VIF&R's office for an e-mail version.

Is the Fire Chief paid too much?

The Fire Chief's salary is determined by the Board of Fire Commissioners based on comparable salaries paid to other King County and Puget Sound fire chiefs. Comparables, combined with an annual performance review, are used to determine merit increases. One element used to measure performance has been success in attracting additional funding without increasing the District's property tax levy. Grant and outside agency funding has provided substantial additional funds. Between September 2000 and the end of 2005, *for every \$1 in salary paid to the fire chief, \$5.65 in additional funding has been returned to the system.* That additional revenue has permitted the District to meet a 40% increase in call-for-service demand while not asking the voters for a tax increase.

Vashon Island Fire and Rescue
P.O. Box 1150
Vashon, WA 98070

Bulk Rate
U.S. Postage
Paid Permit
No. 57
Vashon, WA
98070

Current Resident or Box Holder

EXHIBIT # 8
2 of 2

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VASHON ISLAND FIRE AND RESCUE

Customer Centered Strategic Plan

AUGUST 2000

EX# 9182



Emergency Services Consulting Group

...a subsidiary of the Glatfelter Insurance Group

NOV 10 2005

Goal 1 – Develop effective community outreach and involvement

Public Disclosure Commission

Objective 1-A **Maintain positive relations with local, regional and national media through the use of a Public Information Officer position**

Timelines **(C) January, 2002 – May, 2003**

Estimated Cost **\$0**

Critical Tasks:

- *Identify and establish a public information officer position*
- *Seek opportunities to provide information to the media (**current program**)*
- *Provide articles to national trade magazines*
- *Conduct a "media academy"*
- *Establish a media line on the new phone system (**in progress**)*
- *Prepare a fire department fact sheet for distribution to the press*
- *Offer fire department response paging notification to the press (at their expense)*
- *Provide media relations training to staff*

Objective 1-B **Encourage active public involvement in the department**

Timelines **(B) September, 2000 and ongoing**

Estimated Cost **\$7,000 - \$12,000 annually starting in FY 2001**

Critical Tasks:

- *Provide open communication with the community through the use of meetings and publications*
 - *Conduct annual public discussion forums*
 - *Produce a quarterly community newsletter (**current program**)*
 - *Conduct holiday special events*
 - *Develop and maintain a department web site (**current program**)*
 - *Provide "flash" notices to the public of important issues facing the department*
 - *Conduct an biennial community survey*
 - *Produce and distribute an annual report of department activities and accomplishments.*
- *Provide Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training (**current program**)*
- *Provide CPR and first aid training (**current program**)*
- *Increase the department's participation on the Community Council, particularly through the public safety committee*
- *Increase the amount of public education presented to the community*
- *Conduct service user surveys*

Objective 1-C **Review and revise the policies and guidelines for internal communications and the decision making process**

Timelines **(B) September 2001 and March 2002**

Estimated Cost **\$0**

Critical Tasks:

- *Develop draft policies and guidelines*
- *Provide opportunity for member comment on proposed policies and guidelines*
- *Adopt new policies and guidelines and train members in their application*
- *Clarify and enforce proper use of the chain of command*
- *Explore and implement a variety of communications tools that encourage open expression of issues, concerns, and suggestions*





Vashon-Island Fire & Rescue

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Public Disclosure Commission

November 8, 2005

Phillip E. Stutzman
Director of Compliance
Public Disclosure Commission
PO Box 40908
Olympia, WA 98504-0908

RE: Response to PDC Case #06-249

I have reviewed the enclosed letters of complaints regarding the District's community newsletter. Please be aware that your letter dated October 31st did not arrive at VIF&R offices until Friday November 4. Following is the District's response to citizen concerns pertaining to case #06-249:

The District's effort at effectively communicating with our Island community has been a major operational goal since 2000. As you can see from the enclosed excerpt, a community newsletter is an important element of the District's 2000 Customer Centered Strategic Plan. In addition to the newsletter, the communication effort was a broad-based effort that included a regular newspaper column, providing speakers to service and business organizations, production of an annual report, and distributing customer service inquiries to those who requested emergency response. One-to-two community newsletters per year was a regular element of that program.

Late in 2004 the District authorized an additional executive staff position with the intent that administration concentrate on improving all facets of VIF&R's communication plan. The organization chart was revised and responsibilities reassigned. As a result of a major goal assigned to the Fire Chief by the Board at its December 2004 Strategic Planning Meeting, staff was tasked with creating a broad-based Community Relations and Communication program, one element of which was to expand the community newsletter and increase the number of editions.

In an attempt to work within the approved budget, administration created a plan to publish and distribute four-to-five newsletters in 2005. Some general themes were listed along with a time frame that was generally oriented toward one each season with a possible extra edition specifically oriented toward wildland fire exposures or cold weather safety issues. While the goal was firm, the format, size, and appearance of the newsletter remained a work in progress.

The first edition for 2005 was listed as a winter one and was mailed in February. This edition was 11" x 14", 8 pages, 4 color, and printed on glossy paper. It was well received by many in the community but some, including most of those who filed this complaint, bitterly complained to the Board about its "slick" look. The contention was, "it is out of Vashon character" and each suggested it was excessive. District administration heeded their comments. The next edition was placed on hold until staff could come to a conclusion on how best to blend communication objectives with an expected "Vashon look."



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Due to the redesign and research effort, administration chose not to publish a spring edition.

At the same time and responding to some citizen critique, the Board began holding periodic special meetings in other community areas of the Island rather than only at the headquarters station. Those community-based meetings were well received and well attended. The primary focus was the District's need to rebuild, relocate, and evaluate the efficiency of satellite fire stations. However, based on popularity and positive comments of the satellite meetings, the Board committed to continue the pattern at least once per quarter and more frequently as time and schedule permitted. As more Islanders became exposed to District business and goals, it also became evident that few in the community knew who their representatives on the Board were. While staff planning on a new newsletter format continued, administration also decided to feature a profile of one Board member in each upcoming edition following the summer (July) version.

Following much research, the new format retained its original size but was reduced to two pages, printed in but two colors, and printed on matte, recycled stock. Since the July edition was limited to two pages and oriented toward Disaster Preparedness and summer events, there was not sufficient room to feature a commissioner profile.

The next edition to come up was the autumn (September) one. September is the heart of budget season and this year in particular the subject of special purpose district taxation and levy rates was a prominent subject of community discussion. In addition, the District's Finance Officer had just completed work on a Financial Forecast so the focus of this edition became fiscal responsibility and funding. It also offered the first opportunity to feature a commissioner profile. It was deemed appropriate by administration to first feature the Board Chair. The next edition would feature the vice chair and then succeed according to Board seniority. There was not a thought or mention during production of it relating to or affecting an election.

In her three years serving the community, Board Chair Nicholson has effected significant improvements and professionalism in how the District operates. Her education and professional background is specifically oriented to public governance and human resource process. She is a results-oriented administrator and, through her guidance, the District has achieved a large percentage of the goals set forth in the formal strategic plan. Not only were they achieved, they were completed in a fiscally responsible manner. The message published in the September Fireline communicates just that. It is not electioneering nor is it campaigning. There was never a single thought toward an election. The message communicates to our customers the District's accomplishments as was outlined as goals in the strategic plan.

The September edition did not arrive on Vashon from the printer until September 12. There is an additional week delay built into VIF&R's system to order and receive a warrant to pay for postage. Warrants arrive on Wednesday so the very earliest it could have reached the Post Office would have been September 21. Concurrently, one day after the finished product arrived from the printer it was pointed out to administration, for the first time, that a link between the



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candidacy of Commissioner Nicholson and the timing of her message could possibly be construed as improper use of public funds. In consideration of that possible link, we intentionally withheld mailing until two days after the election. The enclosed Post Office receipt dates postage payment as September 21st for home delivery on or after September 22nd. In addition, at the time of the mailing, primary election results indicated Commissioner Nicholson would not even qualify for the General Election in November. Also included in this edition was timely and important information regarding volunteer recruitment and proposed purchase of property in Burton for a new fire station. It was important this information as well as the budget information be distributed and, combined with election results unfavorable toward Ms Nicholson, it was felt there could be no possible conflict.

Statistically, Vashon votes over 75% absentee. Logically speaking, if the intent of the newsletter was to affect the outcome of the September 20th election, it should have been timed for release when absentee ballots arrived in voter's homes. What would have been gained by the newsletter arriving in homes one-to-two days prior? Even so, in order to avoid even a hint of impropriety, the mailing date was delayed until after the election.

The October edition was a special edition that was compiled from three submitted newspaper columns written with the intent to present accurate information to rebut false and misleading statements and rumors circulating through the community. The edition was reviewed by District Counsel and, as you can see by the enclosed e-mail, approved for distribution. It was not written in favor of or against any particular candidate or campaign platform. It was written with the District's obligation in mind to ensure the community had accurate information.

In just the past two days, it has been decided by staff to forego the 2005 fifth edition in favor of a direct mail postcard to the community encouraging community members to sign up and volunteer for our upcoming Recruit Fire Academy. Reference the previous two editions for the same announcement. This was done for two reasons:

1. Local volunteerism is very important to the District and there is but one recruit academy per year. We currently have seven on-Island applicants and 25 from off-Island. It is important to have a more balanced recruit academy.
2. The remaining 2005 budget allocation is insufficient to fund both a community newsletter and the postcard recruitment piece. The postcard will be the fifth piece distributed by the District to all Island households in 2005.

VIF&R's 2006 Board-approved budget includes funding for continuation of the community newsletter. Now that the format, size, and print style is solidified, the communication effort with our customers will continue to be consistent, effective, and within budget. Staff will meet in December to select six themes for 2006. Included will be a commissioner profile of Vice-Chair (and current acting chair) Jan Nielsen. Commissioner Nielsen was the intended profile for October 2005 with Commissioner Jennings selected for the intended December 2005 issue. That priority was determined by Board position assignment and then by seniority on the Board. Candidate status was never a consideration.



Vashon-Island Fire & Rescue

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Mr. Frye seems to allege that mention of the election was intentionally eliminated from the September edition. That simply is not true. It was completely overlooked during the editing and production process. That process was occurring during late-August and any election date was the furthest from our minds. We had been pre-occupied all summer with public hearings over a proposed new fire station and wildland suppression issues.

I have also enclosed a copy of a newsletter from September 2002. Unfortunately, there was no effort to archive earlier editions, however it sounds as if Mr. Frye has them archived for inspection.

I have attempted to explain the progress of events throughout the year as well as the reason and logic behind each decision so you can better understand the chronology of events. I have chosen, however, not to address any of the inflammatory accusations made in several of the letters. To those of us who manage this public safety agency, that type and tenor of statement is a common and often daily occurrence. With the exception of ex-commissioner Dick Franklin, each complaint contributor harbors ill will and a personal agenda toward the District. Much of that attitude permeates their letters.

There was and is no grand conspiracy to use public funds for anything other than meeting our Mission Statement and community expectations. As testament to that statement, the past two State Audits of the District's business covering Fiscal Years 2000 through 2004 were spotless and clean. I anticipate the next audit to be no different. While that fact does not affect this inquiry, had VIF&R been guilty of the pattern of alleged misappropriation of funds and unethical operation, I would have expected the State Auditor to document numerous improper findings. That simply has not occurred.

The District has undergone substantial organizational change since 2000 and, while substantially improving customer service, VIF&R has inherited some vociferous and persistent critics. There is no intent to ignore our critics but, at the same time, Board and operational decisions are always made with the best interest of our entire customer base in mind. Communicating with the community is an important part of VIF&R's overall customer service program.

I hope the above explanation sufficiently satisfies your agency's concerns. Please feel free to contact me with further questions or inquiries.

Sincerely,

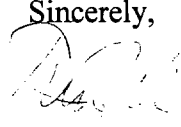

Jim Wilson
Fire Chief

EXHIBIT 10
4 of 4

Fireline News



Is Volunteering Worth It? One New Recruits Experience

By Jeremiah Mushen, Vashon Island Firefighter Recruit

"Is this really worth it? I don't need this abuse." I ponder this thought as I search for my glove during a drill session at the Vashon Fire and Rescue Volunteer Recruit Academy. It was our first day in full fire fighting bunker gear and I was almost fully dressed, ready for action. Little did I know that in the few seconds I had put down my gloves to secure my helmet, one of the recruit instructors had swooped down, snagged a glove and hid it on the fire engine. In front of the entire class my instructor yelled with a sinister glee, "You better ask one of your classmates where your glove is!"

A slight mental error led me to public humiliation, as several of my classmates direct me to the location of my glove. Public humiliation and push-ups for the entire class are the punishments for personal mistakes while you are learning how to become a firefighter. Training for the fire service is a unique learning experience. It challenges your physical fitness, your mental alertness, and your independence.

The Fall Vashon Fire and Rescue Volunteer Academy will last for six months. Training began in October, and meetings take place on Thursday evenings and all day Sat-



Live Fire Training with Fire Recruits

(Continued on page 3)

Implementing Fee for Transport Service

The financial challenges facing many of today's fire districts are forcing administrations to seek new opportunities to recover the expanding costs of providing quality services. Our Board of Fire Commissioners directed VIF&R to recover a portion of the costs associated with non-emergency impacts such as transporting Basic Life Support (BLS) patients. The goal of the transport fee is to develop revenue while only charging the user of the service. The estimated revenue is approximately \$30,000 annually from the transport fee. In addition, fees for land clearing burn permits, habitual

false fire alarms, and plan checks have been established.

Why now?

There is never a good time to implement a new fee. However, factors such as the state of the economy, the realities of tax-cutting initiatives and increasing demands for services have resulted in shortfalls for the District.

How much does it cost?

Beginning in March 2005, a \$200 flat fee per aid car transport for Basic Life Support (BLS) to on-island clinics will be im-

(Continued on page 4)



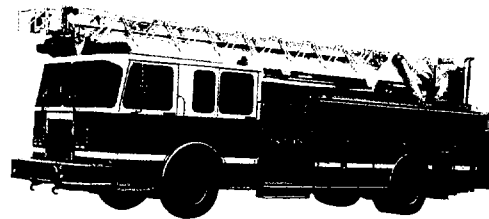
Patient care by EMTs Brodie Smith & Daron Buxton

VIF&R Secures Federal Grant for Ladder Truck

A 1997 consultant study identified Vashon's need for a Quint/Ladder truck. Following an administrative needs assessment over the past three years, that same weakness resurfaced. In response to the unfunded need, Chief Jim Wilson wrote a grant application requesting financial aid from the Federal Fire Act Grant program in the "Firefighting Vehicle" category to fill a critical void in the department's current fleet. A grant award in the amount of \$411,000 was recently announced.

"With our island isolation, Vashon has no immediate mutual aid from our friends and neighbors." Commented Chief Wilson "To date, VIF&R has not had the rescue or high-flow firefighting capability provided by a ladder truck."

A quint is a hybrid vehicle with capabilities of both a fire engine and a ladder truck. It is traditionally smaller than a ladder truck, which allows for better access in restricted space, but still carries water like an engine and has a 75-foot aerial ladder.



A quint's capabilities include residential and commercial structure fires where high-flow water from a raised platform would most effectively battle the blaze; provide elevated exposure protection to collateral structures; heavy search and rescue activities from 2nd and 3rd floor structures; as well as extrication and over-the-embankment scenarios where a firefighter could repel from the platform, extricate the patient, and bring them to safety.

USFA, and their peer review panels, identified VIF&R as a department with a critical need due to the island's natural isolation, growing commercial district, and critical life safety issues.

"This is an exciting opportunity to maximize our investment that will result in necessary equip-

(Continued on page 4)

A Closer Look At The People Who Serve You

By Chris Huffman, Career Firefighter/EMT



**FF/EMT Brodie Smith
on Engine 55**

We all know the people who serve the VIF&R have the desire to help people when in need. But who are these people really? Some islanders feel that VIF&R having employees who do not maintain residency on the island takes away from the care they provide to the residents. Some feel as though their compassion and reasoning towards people on the island is different and could possibly take away from the care provide. With this article I would like to help the community of Vashon to see that the Firefighters, EMT's & Paramedics are more like you, a family member or neighbor than you would think.

Brodie Smith has been serving the Vashon Island Fire Department for almost four years. Brodie is a Firefighter/EMT and also the President of the Vashon Firefighters Local Union. He is one of the original eight career firefighters for Vashon and has helped form the program from its infancy. Brodie is actively involved in public education for the District and has aided in developing a more active fire safety program for the schools, encompassing classes, tours and literature for children as well as adults. The blue address signs the District provides is in large part due to Brodie and his vision for quickly finding your home in your time of need. He also is credited with the "Vial of Life", a tool which provides valuable medical information to the EMS care providers in a time of need. Brodie has also brought the bicycle, skateboard and equestrian helmet program into swing, providing affordable head protection for Vashon residents.

Brodie currently lives in Tenino, just outside of Olympia. He resides there with his wife Jen and two children. Brodie and Jen are in the process of building a new home on their property in Tenino which consumes most of his free time.

Brodie graduated with a degree in Biology and took a job with a non-profit agency as a Fish Biologist. After several years in this trade, Brodie began volunteering for Rainier Fire District where the Firefighting Bug bit him. He began training to improve his skills in the fire service and attended the Thurston county fire training academy, receiving his Washington State Firefighter I certification. Brodie then obtained his E.M.T. and various other Fire related courses. He was hired by Vashon Island Fire & Rescue in May, 2001.

Brodie has recently obtained his Firefighter II as well as his Confined Space Rescue Certification. He currently serves on all special rescue teams at the fire department and still actively works with the public education program at VIFR.

I would encourage all members of the Vashon Island community to take an opportunity to meet and learn about all of VIF&R members. The district provides station tours upon appointment as well as a variety of other informative programs and services.

Historically Speaking VIF&R Turns 63 Years Old

By Chief Mike Kirk

Vashon Fire and Rescue will be sixty three years old in March 2005. It unofficially began in 1940 when Axel Peterson presented to the community a five-point plan for a fire district. Preceding the plan Islanders had acquired or built their own equipment. Over the summers of 1928 and 1929 two carnivals raised \$700 that Deb Harrington and volunteers used to purchase a soda-acid chemical fire truck. They then built a hose-wheel truck. Additional Tacoma surplus apparatus and converted commercial trucks served the community with responses at the breakneck speed of 8 miles-per-hour.

Island spirit was racing at a faster pace though. The Beall brothers; Fergie and John, organized their Beall Greenhouse employees into a fire protection district in early 1941. A year later Jesse Shaw and Harry Robbins attached a home-made sign, "Vote Today for Fire District" on a rebuilt oil delivery truck. On March 26, 1942 Islanders approved the formation of King County Fire District 13 by a vote of 426 to 4. Our first commissioners were: George McCormick, Johnny Beall, and Harry Robbins. John Beall was appointed Fire Chief. The Second World War confronted all Islanders that year, but also the fact that "The District encompassed the whole island and the Commissioners had their hands full figuring where additional stations and equipment would be located when they could afford them." (The Fire Districts of King County", Harold "Jiggs" Hoyt, p.44, 1990.)

Facing the challenges were these first volunteers in 1940-42: Lloyd Bevington, Paul Billingsly, Russell Brammer, Norman Edson, Jud Kennedy, Marvin Larson, M. Lund, Guy Monssmith, George Nelson, Russell Powell, Otis Putnam, Harry Robbins, Frank Selleck, Jesse F. Shaw,



1944, Left to Right: Hank Carley (Henry); Aaron Sherman; Glen Newell; Russ Carty; Jesse Shaw; John Beall; and Capt. Powell

Ferguson Beall, John Beall, John Calhoun, Robert Calloway, Ralph Cooper, Douglas Cullen, Proctor J. Ferfuson, Fred Guglomo, Hjalmer K. Visvik, Halvor F. Larson, Lionel Mortensen, Dale Shride, Stephen Floyd, and Gordon Wendorf. To date these pioneer volunteers inspired over 750 Islanders to join the fire service over sixty-three years.

(Source: Beachcomber, April 30, 1992: "Celebrating 50 Years of the King County Fire Protection District #13" compiled by Ken Britz, Gaylen Gregory, Craig Harmeling and Harriet Clayton.)

New Recruits Experience Cont.

(Continued from page 1)

urday. We started with 22 recruits, all eager to taste the excitement of riding that red scream machine, being seen as "cool" by every child and "admirable" by our fellow citizens. In three months, voluntary attrition has whittled our class down to 15. I doubt few of us expected the breadth of skills we would need to become firefighters.

The most surprising aspect of our training has been the amount of time we have spent in the classroom. Recruits are inundated with information from the basics of rolling hose, to the chemistry of fire, to skills in personal communication. There is literally an endless body of knowledge that comes with emergency preparedness. It's in the classroom that the reality hits, "How much education do I want before I go into a burning building to rescue someone?"

As we move to the halfway point of our training, we are beginning to realize the physical toll that fighting fire takes. We now spend 3-5 hours each Saturday in our bunker gear and breathing packs, which weigh around 50 pounds. Although the weight is cumbersome, the excessive warmth of the gear and loss of dexterity and visibility are even greater challenges. I have competed as a professional triathlete in many events where the temperature has exceeded 90 degrees, but I have found fire training equally as challenging.

The challenges of becoming a physical. The recruit academy is the unique teamwork atmosphere. When we go somewhere, we go with another disciplined. If we organize our desks,

The strict adherence to conformity and to be overkill, especially to the strong were attracted to this volunteer opportunity. It took several weeks (and me losing my gloves) to realize why our instructors have pounded these practices into our heads. When we finally go into a rescue operation, we will only be as strong as our weakest link. If I lose a glove, yes, I will injure or even lose my hand. If I don't put away equipment in identical fashion, the next firefighter won't know where to find it. If I don't put away equipment properly, it won't be there when they need it most urgently. If a firefighter is not part of the team, either they will end up hurt or their actions will hurt others.



Morning Physical Agility Routine

hands. The second is the day where we hear that first alarm on that first shift, when we go out to help our fellow citizen during their time of greatest need. Is the Recruit Academy worth the trouble? The answer is a resounding "Yes, absolutely!"



2005 Vashon Recruit Class Group Photo

have not only been academic and forced many volunteers to adapt to fire service. In our academy, if we If we make a mistake, everyone is I do it the same.

"Team mentality" at first seems independent personalities that It took several weeks (and me losing my gloves) to realize why our instructors have pounded these practices into our heads. When we finally go into a rescue operation, we will only be as strong as our weakest link. If I lose a glove, yes, I will injure or even lose my hand. If I don't put away equipment in identical fashion, the next firefighter won't know where to find it. If I don't put away equipment properly, it won't be there when they need it most urgently. If a firefighter is not part of the team, either they will end up hurt or their actions will hurt others.

We have three months left to complete in the Vashon Island Fire and Rescue Volunteer Recruit Academy. There are two events that we all await with great anticipation. The first is the day in our academy when we congratulate each other for performing our skills as a seamless unit, knowing full well that we have placed our safety in each other's hands.

Fire Safety Posters — Winners Announced

During Fire Prevention Week this past October, VIF&R firefighters visited Chautauqua and McMurray schools with a message of fire and life safety in the home.

Students at Chautauqua School were challenged to create a poster that reflected the most important thing to do in case a fire occurred. The posters were submitted through teachers for judging. Who better than Mr. Mike Kirk to judge the messages? Recently retired as principle of McMurray Middle School, Mr. Kirk is also uniquely qualified as a fire service educator having served the community for over 30 years as a firefighter and emergency medical provider. Mr. Kirk currently serves as Assistant Chief responsible for member and community relations.

Chief and Principal Kirk took this assignment very seriously. He pondered and agonized over 54 posters before making the tough decisions on those named as slogan winners.

Winners are:

- 2nd Grade-Rachel Hansen for "Stay low if there's a fire"
- 3rd Grade-Mia Crooquist for "Whether you're old or whether you're young fire safety should be number one"
- 4th Grade-Emmie Kehoe for "Stop like a stop light, drop like a raindrop, roll like a rolling pin"
- 5th Grade-Halla McManus for "When fire flares someone cares!"



Rachel, Mia, Emmie and Halla pictured with VIF&R Personnel

Each student and their parents will be awarded a ride to school in a fire engine on a day of their choice. While these four students were recognized for their creative efforts, every student at both schools are winners from the knowledge they gained by participating in Fire Prevention Week.

Becoming an Emergency Medical Technician

By Jason Everett, Volunteer Firefighter/EMT

As many community members already know, I have a long history of community service on Vashon Island. Over the last ten years, I have served as a member of the Vashon-Maury Island Community Council Executive Board, an active member of the Public Safety Committee, an organizer of bicycle commuters, the executive director of Vashon Allied Arts, and the auctioneer for PTSA and VIPP. Last year I joined Vashon Island Fire & Rescue as a volunteer firefighter to fulfill a long-term dream and to serve my community in a different way. I have been very happy as a member of this department and feel blessed to be able to help my neighbor in time of need.

However, nearly seventy-five percent of the 1,400 calls VIF&R receives in a given year are medical in nature, and my firefighter training has not allowed me to play a significant role in the majority of those calls.

As a result, I have enrolled in the Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) class along with eighteen others to gain EMT certification and play a more significant role in emergency response.

This is a eleven week course held here on Vashon with eleven hours per week of classroom commitment and many hours at home of study time. (It works out pretty well as both my kids have lots of homework these days, so we all get to study at the same time). There is also a 10-



EMT Students Practicing Defibrillator Protocols

hour internship at Harborview Medical Center in the Emergency Room, which is always an intense place to be.

In my training thus far, I have found that a fascinating dichotomy exists between the simplicity of managing the ABCs (airway, breathing, and circulation) and dealing with the complexities of the human body that is sick or traumatized by injury.

My newfound understanding of the elegance of human anatomy and its physiology has bordered on the sublime; and observing the inside of a patient's chest and abdomen at Harborview was nearly as spiritual an experience as witnessing the birth of my children.

I have always been one to stop to help someone in need. Now that I have the training, I feel

that I can do more than just help, I can save someone's life. This feeling is both empowering and fulfilling.

If you are like me and are someone who always stops to help when help is needed, I encourage you to consider becoming involved with VIF&R. There are many opportunities to volunteer and there will be additional opportunities in the future to attend fire and EMT academies. Aside from being a father and husband, it is one of the most meaningful and satisfying things I have ever done.

VIF&R will be starting another EMT class in April. Call today to learn more about the 11-week training program!

Implementing Fee for Transport Service cont.

plemented. If the transport is off-island a \$450 fee will be billed. There are no additional charges for mileage or medical supplies. If the emergency responder determines the medical condition is an Advanced Life Support (ALS) situation requiring medical services, there will be no transport fee.

Fee for Service - Summary	
▶ Local BLS Transport	\$0
▶ Off Island BLS Transport	\$450
▶ Land Clearing Burn Permit	\$100
<i>Includes initial inspection</i>	
▶ Additional Inspections	\$25
▶ False Automatic Fire Alarms	\$100
<i>Billing begins after third false alarm in 90 days</i>	
Plan Check fee for Fire District Receipt	\$25 / per hr (min. 1hr)
Rest Assured - No patient will be denied transport or sent to a collection agency due to an inability to pay the transport fee.	

Will the VIF&R aid car still transport me if I can't pay the fee?
Absolutely! Patients will never be refused service whether or not they have the ability to pay the transport fee. Patients will be billed either through their insurance or directly if they do not have insurance. Patients will not be asked to pay the fee at time of transport. No patient will be sent to collections due to the inability to pay.

Will my insurance be invoiced?

If you are a resident of Vashon your insurance or Medicare/Medicaid agency will be the only agency to receive an invoice. You will not be billed for co-pays or unpaid portions of the invoice. No Island resident will be referred to a collection agency. Non-residents will be expected to remit the full amount.

There is no fee for calling 9-1-1. The transport fee is only applicable if a patient is transported by a VIF&R aid car.

Federal Grant for Ladder cont.

ment that will last us at least 25 years." Fire Commissioner Chairman Sharon Lee Nicholson stated, "In my opinion, this purchase is a natural extension of the planning process to better anticipate the needs of the community, which started with the building of main fire station under the leadership of former chief Craig Harmeling."

The grant requires rural fire departments with less than 50,000 in population to provide for a 10% local matching of the funds. On March 3 the Board of Commissioners approved a bid award for the specialized apparatus. Manufacturing time is 290 days with expected delivery just before Christmas. VIF&R staff has assembled a multimedia presentation outlining the community benefits of a quint/ladder truck. It is available for presentation to service organizations, community or neighborhood groups, and church groups on request. Please call 463-2405 if interested.



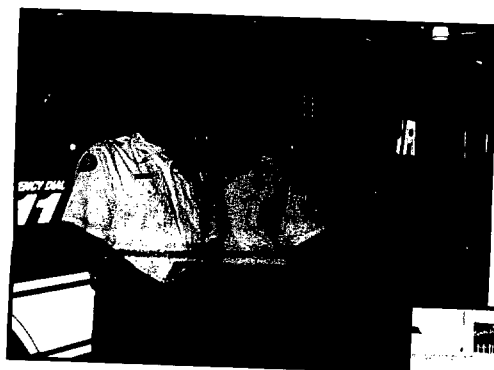
Fire Recruits conducting "Burn To Learn" Drills at North Bend

The price of success is hard work, dedication to the job at hand and the determination that whether we win or lose, we have applied the best of ourselves to the task at hand."

— Vince Lombardi



Jim Selig teaching CPR to Community



Fire Crews battle residential fire on Vashon

From left: Assistant Chief Marty Fowler; Chief Jim Wilson; Matt Sullivan, CFO; and Battalion Chief Jim Whitney — the new Administrative Officers for VIF&R.



Chief Mike Kirk with Search and Rescue Props



FF/EMT Randy Tonkin conducting Marine Training



FF/EMT Daron Buxton Operates Air Refill System on Rescue 55.

EMT Graduates from back row: Lea Gaskill, Jason Everett, Casey Westphal, David Sova, Chandelle Rivera, Amelia Watson, Helen Westphal, Rachael Koernke, Jill Bulow, Lenora Hackett, Mark Voight, Jennifer Becker, Jack Collins



"Fireline News" is a Vashon Island Fire & Rescue quarterly publication for the intent to educate the community on District accomplishments, news and current events.

Contributing Writers:

Kathy Bonner, Daron Buxton, Jason Everett, Chris Huffman, A/C Mike Kirk, Jeremiah Mushen, B/C Jim Whitney and Fire Chief Jim Wilson.

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Fire Chief Jim Wilson and Lea Gaskill

Board of Commissioners:

SharronLee Nicholson, Chair; David Jennings; Jan Nielsen; Susan Carlton; and Scott Rice

Layout and Design: Lea Gaskill

The Faces of VIF&R

EXHIBIT 14
Page 5 of 6

Technical Rescue

By Battalion Chief Jim Whitney and
Randy Tonkin, Firefighter/EMT

It is commonly understood by most people that the fire department is well trained and ready to protect the community from structure fires and/or medical emergencies. The members of the fire department spend countless hours training for both of these disciplines to assure a constant state of readiness. What many people don't realize is that Vashon Island Fire and Rescue also maintains proficiency in five areas of technical rescue. The training to maintain competency of these teams takes place above and beyond the day-to-day fire and EMS training.

Currently, Vashon Island Fire & Rescue maintains skilled proficiency in trench rescue, confined space rescue, medium to high angle rope rescue, surface water rescue and hazardous material responses. Routinely, fire departments across the nation respond to calls for service to these special emergencies and Vashon is no different. However, being an Island which is accessible only by ferries presents us with a unique challenge in that we cannot rely as easily upon the mutual aid of neighboring departments. In most communities, fire districts commonly work with neighboring districts and are able to share resources, including resources for special rescue situations, across a wider geographic area. On Vashon, due to the delays involved in the ferry transportation system, we cannot afford the luxury of relying on our neighbors for immediate back up support in an emergency and so we prepare for the initial response to these situations independently.

It is important to us that our community knows they can rely on the 911 system for more than fire and medical emergencies. If you

reside on Vashon, you can count on your local fire department to handle situations that occur less commonly but can be every bit as threatening. In future editions of this publication, we will highlight each area of technical rescue in greater detail so you will become familiar with some of these possible emergencies which you may never have considered to be realistic dangers.



High Angle Rescue Training from Heights Water Tower

Can Emergency Responders Find You?

By Chief Jim Wilson, VIF&R

When tragedy strikes at 2:00 AM can our emergency responders quickly locate your home? If you are alone and suffer a health-related event, can our Aid Car and Paramedics quickly find you? Over the past several months emergency responders have suffered inordinate delays due to inability to locate a specific address. A recent informal windshield survey indicates less than 50% of Island homes and businesses have reflective address numbers conspicuously posted at the driveway and/or on the home.



High Angle Rescue Training from Heights Water Tower

Today, each of us are inundated with a wide variety of communication devices including traditional telephones, cordless models, cell phones, pagers, and even direct radio communication. When needed, all contribute to our increased access to emergency services. When you access the system by dialing 911 and request emergency assistance you trigger a coordinated response designed to provide optimum care for the situation. Depending on your need — fire, law enforcement, and/or emergency medical personnel are immediately dispatched with the mission of assisting you in your emergency. Vashon Island Fire & Rescue and King County have developed a state-of-the-art emergency response system.

There are highly trained and knowledgeable dispatchers awaiting your call; firefighters are trained in both emergency medicine and firefighting techniques; paramedics are equipped with drugs and tools to reverse life-threatening events, and King County Sheriff deputies are thoroughly trained in all aspects of public safety. All these expensive communication devices and sophisticated rescue systems fail to be effective if we cannot quickly locate you!

As emergency service responders, our greatest frustration is wandering a dark road attempting to locate a specific address when it is not clearly marked with reflective numbers. King County and Vashon Island has developed a marvelous grid addressing system; it is far superior to the previous "Route and Box" system. In most cases the grid places us in the approximate area but our emergency response system, the "Chain of Survival", is only as strong as its weakest link. In many cases we waste precious seconds and minutes with dispatcher callbacks attempting to gain additional information.

When you or a loved one suffers a stroke or heart attack, seconds or minutes can mean the difference between life and death or a productive life and one with serious disabilities. When your home catches fire seconds or minutes can be the difference between saving precious possessions and total destruction. When your home is invaded by an intruder seconds and minutes can mean a great deal to a successful outcome. When in desperate need, seconds and minutes will seem like an eternity. The most effective way to locate you is with a clear pathway of identifying address numbers. The minimum recommended size is 4" and reflective. They need to be clearly posted at your driveway readable from both directions and on your home. If you live on a private road, the numbers should be posted at the main road and at each access point along the route.

VIF&R offers customized reflective signs for a small donation. For your peace of mind now is the time to clearly mark your home. When you dial 911 — it's already too late!

Advanced Life Support Services on Vashon

By Kathy Bonner, Sr. Paramedic / Battalion Chief Jim Whitney

In the late 1960's, the founders of the Seattle Medic One program had a vision. They believed by bringing an advanced life support system into the home of a heart attack victim and providing early pre-hospital intervention could improve the chances of survival. After studies were conducted it was determined that pre-hospital



Paramedics and EMS Personnel Treat a Car Accident Victim

intervention by non-physician fire department personnel could provide a higher quality of care and increase survival rate of critically ill and injured patients. The system provides medical dispatch, basic life support (BLS) and paramedic advanced life support (ALS) and has become recognized internationally for its excellence and innovation.

This quality of care was brought to VIF&R on a part time basis in 1980 by Stan Horan and Kathy Bonner. Stan and Kathy were both employees of King County Medic One working on the main land in the south end of King County while residing on Vashon Island. Together they recognized the need for ALS services on the Vashon Island and responded to that need as volunteer paramedics on their days off. The Medic One program is designed to provide a team of two paramedics respond to critical medical emergencies 24-hours per day seven days a week. Having two paramedics for on-call duty, when available was a great improve-

ment and showed a remarkable improvement in survival from critical medical and traumatic emergencies, however it was still less than ideal for the community of Vashon Island.

In 1988, after a successful petition to King County for a portion of the Medic One Levy funds, VIF&R officially started its Medic One program. Stan and Kathy became employees of the District and over the next 14 years were on call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. As the years passed Vashon's call for service increased along with its population. It was becoming increasingly difficult to provide for uninterrupted service around the clock with only two paramedics. When the system was originally implemented in 1988 it didn't take into account staffing issues regarding illnesses, injuries or vacations.



Trauma Drill at High School

In 2002 Vashon

Island Fire & Rescue recognized the need to increase the service provided to the community. The desire was to provide a service that more closely resembled the service provided by Seattle and King County Medic One. This service would provide a rapid response of EMT's and a fully staffed paramedic unit available for critical calls. King County was responsive to the request by VIF&R and understood our issues regarding isolation, population growth and increased call for service. These were all important factors in the county's decision to increase Medic One Levy funding for Vashon. The increase in funding provided for Vashon to hire an additional senior paramedic and send two EMT's to paramedic training. To work as a paramedic for any agency in King County it is required that you attend paramedic training at Harborview Medical Center. The training is an ongoing collaboration of several resources including the University of Washington, Harborview Medical Center, the Seattle Fire Department and other enthusiastic participants. This is a rigorous course lasting over a period of 10 months where the students will experience over 3,000 hours of both field and classroom instruction and over 700 patient contacts.

Today, Vashon Island Fire & Rescue has five career paramedics and eight career Firefighter/EMTs to support the volunteer responders. Two firefighters and one medic reside at the main fire station at all times. Three of the paramedics rotate at the main fire station on shifts. Two Medical Service Officer paramedic's (MSO) rotate weekly shifts 24 hours 7 days a week on-call to complete the daily two paramedic team.

This team of responders, including volunteer and career firefighters/EMTs as well as career paramedics are well trained and ready to provide the top levels of service to our community during it's time of need.

Disaster Preparedness — Be Part of the Solution. Not the Problem

By Joe Ulotowski

A recent "best available science" study shows a 7.2 earthquake on the Seattle Fault, just northeast of Vashon, could cause 1,600+ deaths, 24,000+ injuries and damage to 38,000 buildings throughout the Puget Sound Region. Given the Region's geologic history, the question is "when" such a quake will occur or "if."

The Vashon Disaster Preparedness Coalition is organizing Island residents to mitigate the impact of such a disaster on the Island.



Earthquake damage to a home

Some positions in the organization don't need special training—just willingness to check on neighbors, be messengers or assist in setting up shelters and feeding of displaced people at centralized locations after a disaster occurs. Want more information? Call Mary Swanson at 206-463-3545.

Community CPR

By Daron Buxton, Firefighter/EMT

Thanks to the efforts of many dedicated volunteers both past and present, Vashon Island has become a great place to be if you are going to have a heart attack or need medical attention. Penny Farcy, a well-known teacher on the island, recognized the need to incorporate CPR and First Aid into the curriculum for all middle school students.

Penny felt strongly we needed to teach not only the middle school students, but everyone within the community the valuable skills of CPR and First Aid. She wanted the citizens of Vashon to be able to take care of each other during times of need until fire and EMS responders arrived.

Today, in memory of Penny Farcy, training continues in our community. Thanks to dedicated volunteer like Jim and Lynn Selig, Karen Peterson and others, CPR and First Aid classes are held regularly at VIF&R's Penny Farcy Memorial Training Center. Over the years not only has the school district recognized the importance of our children learning these valuable skills, but many of the island businesses are now offering CPR and First Aid to their employees. VIF&R is proud to carry on the tradition that Penny felt so strongly about. Annually, VIF&R trains hundreds of community members to perform CPR and First Aid skills proficiently.

VIF&R's instructors have taken great pride in continuing Penny's legacy. We will continue to ensuring that our community members are highly trained in the art of CPR and First Aid. Please call Vashon Island Fire & Rescue today at 463-2405 to sign up for one of the most worthwhile classes you will ever take!

What's Upcoming?

...class... on... 2005...
...are held... Wednesday evening... All...
...Saturday... interested? Contact Susan...
...463-4466...

Refighter Academy

A new firefighter academy is currently... and will begin in the...
...information, contact...

Vashon Penny Farcy Memorial Firefighting Academy

...teen Firefight...
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Current Resident or Box Holder

"When Fire Flares, Someone Cares"
— Halla McManus 5th Grade Slogan Winner
(See pg. 3 for full article)

Vashon Island Fire and Rescue
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Fireline News



Disaster Preparedness Volunteers Make It Possible

A recent study by organizations including the U.S. Geologic Survey and the Washington State Department of Emergency Management forecast the impact on the Puget Sound Region of a shallow 6.7 magnitude earthquake along the Seattle Fault (located just north of Vashon). The study, prepared by over 100 experts, showed such an event could cause:

- ▶ 1,600 deaths
- ▶ 24,000 injuries
- ▶ 9,300 buildings destroyed
- ▶ 29,000 buildings severely damaged and/or uninhabitable
- ▶ 154,000 buildings moderately damaged
- ▶ Property damage and economic loss in excess of \$33 billion

The study further states that local governmental resources in the Region would quickly be overwhelmed and damage to infrastructure would be such that outside assistance would be slow, perhaps days, in arriving.

While the scenario did not directly address Vashon, we would undoubtedly suffer considerable damage. Thus, being totally dependent on a functioning ferry system, a primarily volunteer fire department, two sheriff's deputies on duty, and limited public works capability, we must anticipate relying on internally generated resources for from three to ten days.



(Continued on page 2)

Wildland Fires A Real Vashon Threat!

As with the eternal earthquake statement—when it comes to catastrophic wildland fire, it's not a matter of if, just when. This past winter was one of the driest in recorded history and the long range weather forecast points toward a drier-than-normal spring. Following five consecutive at or below normal winters, Island live fuel moistures are stressed. A moist spring season helped, but a normal summer season may still push Vashon's forests beyond fire resistance.



Island history records several catastrophic wildland fires including the 1893 Burton fire that left every structure but one in ruin. Today's threat is exacerbated by many more homes tucked away in forest seclusion. Many have narrow or steep driveways with limited turn around provision. Most have little or no defensible space between the structure and surrounding vegetation. Vashon Island Fire & Rescue responded to 22 grass and vegetation fires last year with two posing threat to neighboring structures. While VIF&R expects no more wildland fires than an average year, 2005 does present enhanced exposure to a catastrophic event.

In a major wildland fire, VIF&R's resources will not be adequate to protect every home under threat and mutual aid is over two

Join VIF&R at Strawberry Festival



Vashon Island Fire & Rescue is preparing an all-star line-up event for the 2005 Strawberry Festival. Partnering together, VIF&R, the Explorer youth program, Vashon-Maury Firefighter's Association, and the Vashon Disaster Preparedness Coalition will display community information street side and in the parking lot north of Vashon Village on the west side of Vashon Hwy.

Street side booths will include a minor first aid station, free blood pressure check, an informational booth on the Vashon Disaster Preparedness Coalition, VIF&R's youth Explorer group and the Volunteer Firefighter's Association.

Volunteer Association Fundraisers!

But don't miss out on the real action in the parking lot! For a \$1 donation to the Volunteer Firefighters, you can take three strikes at a DUNK TANK, where you can find Commissioners and Chiefs at your mercy!

Included in children's activities will be a large, inflatable ladder truck that serves as a slide. The ladder/slide is 28 feet long, 20 feet high and packed with non-stop fun for your youngsters.



A smoke house educating kids on smoke detectors and safe evacuation techniques will be available, as well as a fun fire course where your kids can dress up in real fire bunker gear, advance a fire hose and spray water! If that's not enough fun, bring your kids over to the Water Tender on display for a souvenir photo of your family in bunker gear!

The VIF&R Explorers will be providing a demonstration from 2-3 p.m. on Saturday at the Youth Stage located in the parking lot between Zoomies and the Vashon Theatre.

So join us for great fun, excitement and education for kids and families alike!

Volunteers Make A Difference

(Continued from page 1)

Recently, King County, recognizing there would be a problem assisting Vashon following a major disaster in the Puget Sound Region, approved formation of a Vashon Island Emergency Management Area (VIEMA) to formally oversee our disaster response preparations. VIEMA, combined with the earlier efforts of an informal group, is continuing development of an island-wide plan and an organization to implement that plan, to help us cope with not only a major earthquake, but to help in lesser emergencies such as wildfires, severe windstorms, etc. However, the development and effective implementation of any such plan is dependent on an adequate number of volunteers.

At the most basic level, volunteering means taking care of yourself and your family first. Assuming neither you nor your family suffer injury and your property is not severely damaged, you should be able to care for yourself for a minimum of three days without outside assistance.

Next are the neighborhoods and businesses. Here volunteers simply check on those living or working next door to determine whether or not help is needed. To ensure that no one is overlooked, some sort of an informal volunteer organization is helpful. These organizations, called Neighborhood Emergency Response Organizations (NEROs), then need someone to contact the next level to report whether or not assistance is required. No training is necessary.

In short, with sufficient volunteers we can go a long way towards mitigating threats to life and property. Without them, we on Vashon could find ourselves in serious difficulties. Interested? Call Mary Swanson at 463-3545 or Joe Ulatoski at 463-1321.

VashonBePrepared.org

Check out our new website, www.VashonBePrepared.org. Its purpose is to increase public awareness of what residents and businesses should do prior to and during an emergency. It links to other Vashon organizations and emergency preparedness sites such as the Red Cross, FEMA, and the King County Office of Emergency Management. Postings will include monthly tips, new items, training and volunteer opportunities, maps and contact information.

The Public Information Committee will continue to write articles for The Beachcomber. Guest editorials from Vashonites with unique experiences related to disasters are always welcome. Next of a disaster, tune to 89.1 to hear the latest news from the Voice of Vashon radio station. To hear more go to www.voiceofvashon.org.

A critical link for effective communication is at the neighborhood level for both pre-disaster education and post disaster response. Please call Marnie Rampe at 463-3278. She will help organize and attend your neighborhood emergency response organization (NERO) meeting. It all starts with neighbors helping neighbors.

Look for the **VashonBePrepared.org** banner at the Strawberry Festival!

Wildfires on Vashon a Real Threat

(Continued from page 1)

hours away. In addition, incident commanders will not place firefighters' lives in jeopardy to protect property that has not been properly prepared. In order for firefighters to do their job there must be defensible space and safe escape routes. During a major incident fire officers will be triaging property and judging "winners and losers."

What can you do to make your home more fire safe from wildland threat? First and foremost—start your preparations early this year. Then call 463-2405 or stop by Vashon's main fire station at 10020 SW Bank Road and pick up a free "Fire Risk Rating for Homes" booklet. It is a 16-page publication created by Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) in conjunction with Federal firefighting agencies. Not only does it describe how to make your home fire safe, it presents a numerical formula to clearly define your risk. Also, on your request, VIF&R will be happy to send a knowledgeable District representative to your home to make non-binding recommendations for improvements. Please take this opportunity to implement an on-going risk reduction effort for your most valued possession—your home.

Vashon Island Fire and Rescue
P.O. Box 1150
Vashon, WA 98070

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Souvenir Fire Photos Available
at the Strawberry Festival Booth!

Current Resident or Box Holder

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Page 2 of 2



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18850 103rd Ave SW
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Phone: 206-548-1500
Fax: 206-548-1515

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Mailer Information	Permit Holder's Name and Address, and Email Address if Any Vashon Island Fire & Rescue P.O. Box 1150 Vashon, WA 98070		Telephone (206) 463-2405		Name and Address of Mailing Agent (If other than permit holder)		Telephone		Name and Address of Individual or Organization for Which Mailing Is Prepared (If other than permit holder)			
	CAPS Cust. Ref. ID		Dun & Bradstreet No.		Dun & Bradstreet No.		Dun & Bradstreet No.		Dun & Bradstreet No.			
Mailing Information	Post Office of Mailing 98070		Processing Category (DMM C050) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Letters <input type="checkbox"/> Flats <input type="checkbox"/> Automation Flats (DMM C820)		Mailing Date 9/21/05		Federal Agency Cost Code		Statement Seq. No.		Number of Containers	
	Permit No. 57				Weight of a Single Piece 0.0240 pound				Total Pieces 6156		No. of pieces with Repositionable Notes attached: (DMM C810.7)	
	For Mail Enclosed Within Another Class <input type="checkbox"/> Periodicals <input type="checkbox"/> Bound Printed Matter <input type="checkbox"/> Library Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Media Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Parcel Post				If Sacked, Based on <input type="checkbox"/> 125 pcs. <input type="checkbox"/> 15 lbs. <input type="checkbox"/> both				Total Weight 147.744			
	For Automation Rate Pieces, Enter Date of Address Matching and Coding (DMM A950.3.0)				For Enhanced Carrier Route Rate Pieces, Enter Date of Address Matching and Coding (DMM A950.3.0)				For Enhanced Carrier Route Rate Pieces, Enter Date of Carrier Route Sequencing (DMM M050.4.0)			
Postage Computation (DMM P013)	For Automation Letters and Flats (3.3 oz. or less)						Total From Part A (On reverse)					
	For Presorted Letters and Flats (3.3 oz. or less)						Total From Part B (On reverse)					
	For Enhanced Carrier Route Letters and Flats (3.3 oz. or less)						Total From Part C (On reverse)					
	For All Letters and Flats More Than 3.3 oz.						Total From Part D (On reverse) 152.39					
	Postmaster: Report total postage in AIC 130.						Total Postage (Add lines above) → 152.39					
	For USPS Use Only: Additional Postage Payment (State reason)											
Certification	The mailer's signature certifies acceptance of liability for and agreement to pay any revenue deficiencies assessed on this mailing, subject to appeal. If an agent signs this form, the agent certifies that he or she is authorized to sign on behalf of the mailer, and that the mailer is bound by the certification and agrees to pay any deficiencies. In addition, agents may be liable for any deficiencies resulting from matters within their responsibility, knowledge, or control.											
	The mailer hereby certifies that all information furnished on this form is accurate, truthful, and complete; that the mail and the supporting documentation comply with all postal standards and that the mailing qualifies for the rates and fees claimed; and that the mailing does not contain any matter prohibited by law or postal regulation.											
USPS Use Only	I understand that anyone who furnishes false or misleading information on this form or who omits information requested on this form may be subject to criminal and/or civil penalties, including fines and imprisonment. Privacy Notice: For information regarding our Privacy Policy visit www.usps.com .											
	Signature of Mailer or Agent Mander Bondy				Name of Mailer or Agent Vashon Island Fire				Telephone 206 463-2405			
	Weight of a Single Piece 0.0240 pound				Are figures at left adjusted from mailer's entries? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No							
	Total Pieces 6156				Total Weight 147.744				Total Postage 152.39			
	Check One <input type="checkbox"/> Presort Verification Not Scheduled <input type="checkbox"/> Presort Verification Performed as Scheduled				Date Mailer Notified		Contact		By (Initials)			
	I CERTIFY that this mailing has been inspected concerning: (1) eligibility for postage rates claimed; (2) proper preparation (and presort where required); (3) proper completion of postage statement; and (4) payment of required annual fee.											
Verifying Employee's Signature [Signature]				Verifying Employee's Name				Time 12:45 AM/PM				